

University of Mississippi

eGrove

Eastland Correspondence: Kennedy
Administration

James O. Eastland Executive Branch
Correspondence

3-7-1961

Senator James O. Eastland to President John F. Kennedy, 7 March 1961

James O. Eastland

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/joecorr_d



Part of the [American Politics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Eastland, James O., "Senator James O. Eastland to President John F. Kennedy, 7 March 1961" (1961).
Eastland Correspondence: Kennedy Administration. 7.
https://egrove.olemiss.edu/joecorr_d/7

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the James O. Eastland Executive Branch Correspondence at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Eastland Correspondence: Kennedy Administration by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

JAMES O. EASTLAND, MISS., CHAIRMAN
ESTES KEFAUVER, TENN.
OLIN D. JOHNSTON, S.C.
JOHN L. MCCLELLAN, ARK.
SAM J. ERVIN, JR., N.C.
JOHN A. CARROLL, COLO.
THOMAS J. DODD, CONN.
PHILIP A. HART, MICH.
EDWARD V. LONG, MO.
WM. A. BLAKLEY, TEX.
ALEXANDER WILEY, WIS.
EVERETT MC KINLEY DIRKSEN, ILL.
ROMAN L. HRUSKA, NEBR.
KENNETH B. KEATING, N.Y.
NORRIS COTTON, N.H.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

March 7, 1961

Dear Mr. President:

I am very much impressed with your program "Food for Peace" to provide food to alleviate the hunger of the distressed areas of the world, using as a tool our accumulated agricultural abundance.

Previous administrations have sought to solve the economic problems of this country, including those of American agriculture, by mortgaging the earning power of future generations in the form of our national debt.

I see an opportunity in your proposed program to accomplish several needed objectives. First, your primary objective of course is to make food available to alleviate hunger. Second, and at the same time, we can stimulate employment at home and in the recipient countries. Third, we can help them to develop a stable economy based on their resources, and Fourth, provide ourselves with much needed storable resources.

To implement the program, I would suggest that a part of our capacity to produce food and fiber in excess of our present domestic needs, established export markets for dollar sales, and Public Law 480 markets, could be utilized, and such production of food and fiber could be exchanged for minerals and materials that are limited in their reserves in this country. In some instances P. L. 480 sales, where the local currencies are loaned to the recipient country for economic development, these currencies can be invested in mine opening or plant construction to provide employment for the delivery of such metals that will be needed in our commercial establishment, in addition to our strategic metal stock pile. Such plant or mine development in the country would broaden its base and provide employment for economic development, giving solid foundation for repayment in dollars of these soft currencies when they are due in the future and would eliminate some inflationary tendencies that presently accompany the lending of these currencies in the recipient country.

Page Two
March 7, 1961

The minerals that would be obtained for commercial needs in the future would appreciate in value far in excess of the interest involved in financing such a program either out of scarcity or out of inflationary trends, and at the same time maintain the agricultural economy of the United States now and in the future without interference in world markets. The minerals could be stored in the open with very little cost as compared with the cost of storing excess food and fiber. In fact, the saving on the \$1 billion annual storage bill in agriculture would go far in financing this program.

I recognize that the mining interests of the United States would not accept such a program unless the minerals obtained through its operation were absolutely frozen except in the event of a national emergency, such as war, or by an Act of the Congress, or perhaps a floor on the resale price by the Government of such minerals at a level sufficiently high to guarantee that there will be no interference with the development of natural resources of the United States. It is my concept that these minerals will be needed when our population has doubled, tripled, or at least far exceeds our domestic supply.

I likewise appreciate that there might be reluctance on the part of raw material producing countries to enter into this program unless it were of sufficiently long range to justify the mine opening or plant investment that would be required. They would not favorably entertain entering into such an arrangement on a fly-by-night basis, but neither would such basis be attractive to us in maintaining a productive, prosperous agricultural economy.

Such a program would provide employment for our merchant marine in the transfer of food and fiber and the return of minerals accruing therefrom to the United States, as well as stimulate our domestic transportation facilities, and other segments of our economy.

The minerals obtained could be financed through Treasury debentures to be retired on the sale of the materials in the future. We would at least have the minerals as security against the cost of the food made available.

Page Three
March 7, 1961

I would also like to point out that in many instances the minerals we need are in abundant supply in the countries most in need of our food. This is revealed in the attached memorandum for me and taken from data provided by the Bureau of Mines - February 1961.

I urge your earnest consideration of the above, and will be available for discussion of its possibilities to the Administration.

With personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

U. S. S.

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

February 17, 1961

The Honorable John F. Kennedy
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am very much impressed with your program to provide ~~the needs~~
~~for food~~ to alleviate the hunger of the distressed areas of the world,
using ~~the tool of our~~ ^{as a} ~~agricultural~~ ^{our accumulated} abundance. *I envision a company where the surplus of this generation may be exchanged for the necessities of future generations.*

Previous administrations have sought to solve the economic problems
of this country, including those of American agriculture, by mortgaging
the earning power of future generations *in the form of our national debt.*

needed objectives.
Over
I see an opportunity in your ~~food for peace~~ ^{proposed program to accomplish several} approach to provide
~~assets of scarce minerals in this country~~ ^{for such} to those future generations as
an asset to offset the presently accumulated liabilities in the form of
our public debt and in doing so to provide opportunities to maintain the
productive capacity of our agricultural plants against that time when our
increasing population will demand its full utilization for domestic
purposes.

the
To implement ~~such a~~ program I would suggest that ^{a part of} our capacity
to produce food and fiber in excess of our present domestic needs, and
established export markets for dollar sales, and Public Law 480 markets,
could be utilized, and such production of food and fiber could be exchanged
our and above our present for minerals and ~~metals~~ ^{materials} that are limited in their reserves in this country,
~~to meet the needs of future generations.~~ In some instances P.L. 480 sales,
where the local currencies are loaned to the recipient country for economic
development, these currencies can be invested in mine opening or plant
construction to provide employment for the delivery of such metals that will
be needed in our commercial establishment, in addition to our strategic metal
stock pile. Such plant or mine development in the country would broaden its
base and provide employment for economic development, giving solid foundation
for repayment in dollars of these soft currencies when they are due in
the future and would eliminate some inflationary tendencies that presently
accompany the lending of these currencies in the recipient country.

First ^{your} ~~your~~ primary objective ^{of course} is to make food available
to alleviate hunger. ^{Second, and} At the same time, we can stimulate
employment at home and in the recipient countries. ^{Third,} We
can ~~also~~ help them to develop a stable economy based
on their resources, and ^{fourth} provide ourselves with
much needed stable resources.

The minerals that ^{would} might be obtained for commercial needs in the future would appreciate in value far in excess of the interest involved ^{without scarcity or out of inflationary trends, and at the same time maintain} in financing such a program ~~and would provide a stimulus to~~ the agricultural economy of the United States ^{now and in the future} without interference in world markets. ^{The minerals could be stored in the open with very little cost as compared with the cost of storing food and fiber.}

^{In fact the saving on the \$1 billion annual storage bill in agriculture would go for financing this program.} I recognize that the mining interests of the United States would not accept such a program unless the minerals obtained through its operation were absolutely frozen except in the event of a national emergency, such as war, ^{or by} an act of the Congress, ^{or} and perhaps a floor on the resale price by the Government of such minerals at a level sufficiently high to guarantee that there will be no interference with the development of natural resources of the United States. It is my concept that these minerals will be needed ~~(twenty, forty, sixty or one hundred years in the future)~~ when our population has doubled, tripled, or at least far exceeds ^{our domestic} the supply of minerals currently scarce, in adequate supply, or even in abundance for our present market uses.

I likewise appreciate ^{that there might be on the part} the reluctance of raw material producing countries to enter into this program unless it were of sufficiently long range ^{to} that would justify the mine opening or plant investment that would be required. They would not favorably entertain entering into such an arrangement on a fly-by-night basis, but neither would such basis be attractive to us ^{in maintaining a productive, prosperous agricultural economy.}

I further think it would encourage plant expansion in those countries for long range economic development based on their natural resources to confine the operation of the program to the United States and the recipient country rather than to have minerals pass through a third country, ~~for any refining processes that might be needed.~~ This would provide the maximum benefits to the recipient country.

Such a program would provide employment for our merchant marine in the transfer of food and fiber and the return of minerals accruing therefrom to the United States, ^{so well as stimulate our domestic transportation facilities,} and might possibly eliminate, or at least ^{and other segments of our economy.} reduce, the necessity for large subsidies in this field.

- (A) - Financing
- (B) - These countries sometimes have larger pop + larger ^{under the program}
- (C) - Policy Report & Bulletin #585

The Minerals obtained could be financed through Treasury debentures to be retired on the sale of the materials in the future. We would at least have the Minerals as security against the cost of the food made available.

I would also like to point out that in many instances the Minerals we need are in abundant supply in the countries most in need of our food. This is revealed in the attached memorandum for me and taken from data provided by the Bureau of Mines February 1961.

I urge your earnest consideration of the above, and will be available for discussion of its possibilities to the administration.

Lore V. Hises